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Toxic gas forms in building

By Craig Renfro
Staff Writer

A toxic chemical was released from a broken 5-pound bottle, forming potentially harmful vapors in the chemistry building, but no damage was done, a department official said Wednesday.

Ron Carter, academic business adviser for the chemistry department, said the incident happened in the chemical storeroom basement when a 5-pound bottle of white phosphorus broke.

Three people were in the room when the bottle broke, but no one was injured, Carter said. The entire building was evacuated to avoid inhalation, he said.

For more than an hour, toxic vapors could be seen coming out of the building, as classes were postponed and hundreds of students looked on. When white phosphorus reacts with oxygen it forms phosphorous oxide, which is a toxic chemical. Dr. Michael Rosynek, associate professor of the chemistry department, said the chemical makes a fine white powder which looks like smoke, Rosynek said.

Rosynek said a small amount can make a lot of smoke, but there is no danger as long as the toxic substance is not inhaled. If inhaled, the chemical acts as a dehydrating agent which can burn the respiratory system, he said.

Making sure the building was evacuated was the biggest safety concern, he said. "Now it's just a matter of letting it air out, until it's safe to go back in."

Fire chief Morgan Cook said firefighters were spraying dry chemicals to help ventilate the area. The firefighters also used a ventilation fan to clear the smoke, he said.

"Trying to keep everyone out is my main concern right now," Cook said. At about 4:30, Carter said the building was clear of any danger, and students and workers were allowed to return to the building.

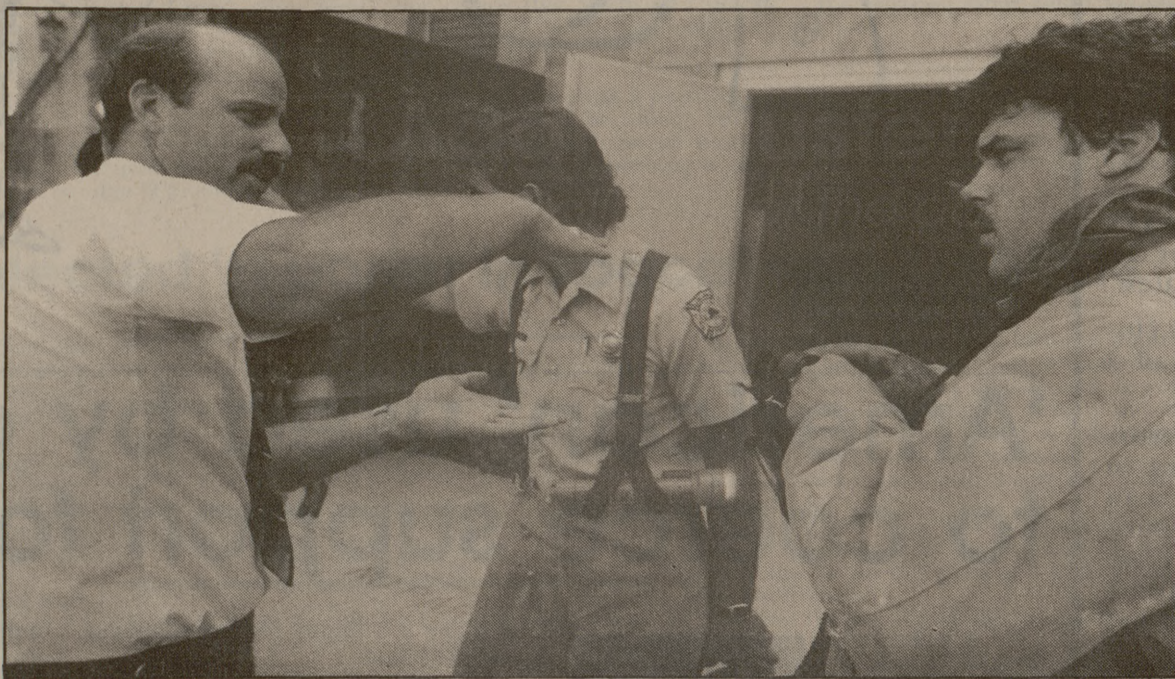


Photo by John Makely

Ron Carter, academic business adviser for the chemistry department, explains to a College Station firefighter the cause of the toxic fumes, which formed in the Chemistry Building.

Khadafy condemns U.S., says Libyans ready to fight, die

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Moammar Khadafy emerged from two days' seclusion late Wednesday, condemned the United States for its air attack on Libya and vowed that his people are ready to fight and die. But the Libyan leader, whose baby daughter was reported killed in the raid, told Americans, "We will not kill your children. We are not like you, we do not bombard cities."

Khadafy's appearance on Libyan television, during which he disclaimed responsibility for anti-American terror attacks, dispelled speculation he had left the country or been killed or seriously injured in the Tuesday morning air raid of U.S. warplanes that dumped one bomb just 10 yards from the Khadafy residence here.

Earlier Wednesday night, anti-air-

craft fire streaked the skies over Tripoli for a second day and gunfire ricocheted around the headquarters compound. Government officials denied the street gunfire signaled factional fighting.

Anti-aircraft crews first opened up Wednesday afternoon at what officials said was a high-flying U.S. reconnaissance jet. A Washington source acknowledged that reconnaissance planes had flown over this north African nation.

The Libyans also said there were new U.S. air attacks Wednesday against Tripoli and towns south and east of here. But the Pentagon denied it.

For almost two full days after the damaging U.S. air bombardment of Tripoli, Khadafy had remained out of sight. Earlier Wednesday, he

failed to appear for a promised meeting with journalists at his headquarters.

Then, at 11:15 p.m. (3:15 p.m. CST), the Libyan leader appeared on state television.

"We are ready to die and we are ready to carry on fighting and defending our country," he declared, speaking in Arabic.

The attacks, which the United States said were targeted on five security and military installations in Tripoli and the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi, also severely damaged a civilian neighborhood in Tripoli and killed at least 100 people.

Khadafy's 15-month-old daughter was killed in the raid. Khadafy said Reagan "should be put on trial as a war criminal and murderer of children."

Khadafy said to have fled from Tripoli

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Reagan administration on Wednesday received intelligence indicating that Moammar Khadafy had fled his Tripoli headquarters and gone into the Libyan desert, government sources said. They said Khadafy might have been wounded in Monday night's raid.

Speculation of a coup in Libya moved through Washington, and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said reports of gunfire in Tripoli could indicate that "there may well be some people . . . who are trying to take matters into their own hands."

One government official, who refused to be identified by name, said it seemed likely Khadafy was "someplace in the middle of the desert" and had flown there within the past day.

"He has several times before gone into the desert when things got tight in Tripoli," the official said, adding that there have been tensions between Khadafy's East German-trained guards and the regular army.

"He recharges his batteries in the desert," the official added. "Whether there's more to it this time or not, we just don't know."

The sources said information reaching Washington indicated that Khadafy may have been wounded during the Monday night air raids. Khadafy ended speculation that he had been killed with a television appearance in which he blasted the Reagan administration for the bombing.

Gunfire in Tripoli around Khadafy's headquarters fueled speculation about factional fighting. One congressional source said elements opposed to Khadafy were "back in town." Another congressional source said the administration had

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received reports of fighting elsewhere in Libya, outside Tripoli.

U.S. intelligence received reports that gunfire near Khadafy's Tripoli headquarters was not merely renewed anti-aircraft fire from nervous Libyan gunners.

The administration professed uncertainty about developments. White House deputy press secretary Edward Djerejian, "We cannot confirm the state of his health and we cannot confirm his actual whereabouts or whether he has been injured."

The intelligence information indicated that Khadafy may have been injured, or at the very least stunned and that his out-of-sight posture may have been contributing to unrest there.

On the CBS Evening News, Weinberger was asked whether Khadafy was losing his grip on the Libyan government.

"There may well be some people — and there are a lot of them — who have every reason to be unhappy with him, who are trying to take matters into their own hands, in other words, people who read the lesson that this attack was supposed to administer," he said.

ABC News, quoting U.S. intelligence sources, said there were reports of mutiny at the Tarkunah army base, south of Tripoli. The network said there were reports that Libyan air strikes were used against Libyan army units.

However, the network said there was no indication any particular group had moved to seize power.

Meanwhile, the State Department

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House Republicans stop debate on aid to Contras

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans used a surprise tactic Wednesday to abruptly stop House consideration of President Reagan's \$100 million Nicaraguan aid proposal, saying they wanted to divorce it from an unrelated spending bill Reagan badly wants to veto.

Democrats claimed the Republicans acted out of desperation because they did not have the votes to defeat a key proposal opposed by the White House.

Both sides agreed the issue of Contra aid is not dead and will resurface, perhaps under different ground rules, within a few weeks.

The Republican minority pulled its surprise by voting for an amendment that would have ended the Reagan program of

aiding the anti-Sandinista guerrillas in Nicaragua — an amendment that had been widely expected to fail.

As a consequence, the amendment by Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., passed 361-66 with only one Republican opposing it. It would bar all aid to the Contras while making \$27 million available for Nicaraguan refugees.

The unexpected ploy, which blocked consideration of an amendment opposed by the White House, was characterized by GOP leaders as a move to free the aid plan from a \$1.7 billion catch-all spending bill Reagan says is "pork barrel" legislation

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Aggie Muster

'Roll call for the absent' will be held Monday in coliseum

By Sue A. Krenek
Reporter

Former Texas A&M students worldwide will gather Monday for Muster, the traditional ceremony honoring Aggies who have died during the past year.

The Muster ceremony, which is combined with a Silver Taps ceremony for the dead, features a "roll call for the absent." As the names of those who have died during the year are called, classmates answer "here" and students light candles for each one.

The largest Muster will be held at 8 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Sharon Gibson, Muster '86 committee sub-chairman, says Muster is being held later in the day than usual

so students returning from the long weekend can attend. Classes will not be held Monday because San Jacinto Day has been declared a state holiday in celebration of the Texas Sesquicentennial.

Gibson says the ceremony will combine the Muster for current students and faculty, the Brazos County A&M Club's Muster and the 50-year reunion of the Class of '36.

This year's speaker will be A.W. "Head" Davis, Class of '45, an attorney for the local firm of Davis & Davis Attorneys. Davis was the 1983 president of the Association of Former Students.

Gibson says the committee expects an excellent Muster because "Mr. Davis is really excited and really motivated about the ceremony, and

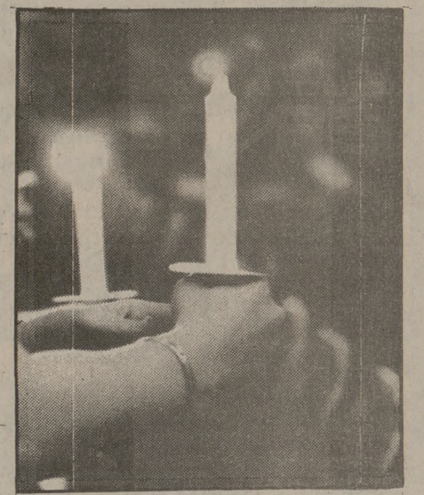
we're really looking forward to it."

More than 300 Musters also will be held worldwide Monday. Almost half will be held in Texas, but more than 120 are scheduled in 42 states and 44 have been planned for 34 foreign countries including Czechoslovakia, Indonesia and Kuwait. All will feature roll calls, and the names of the deceased will be called at the Muster closest to their homes.

Gibson says this year's ceremony is a first because it will be broadcast live to Aggies throughout the United States and in much of Mexico and Canada on A&M's new microwave transmitter.

Home satellite viewers will receive the program, which will begin with a

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Hachtman's complaint against Sims dismissed

By Frank Smith
Staff Writer

A complaint filed by former candidate Mike Hachtman calling for disqualification of Student Body President Mike Sims was unanimously rejected Monday night by the Student Government Judicial Board.

Sims described the board's decision as being "just," and added, "I am pleased with the decision." Hachtman filed the complaint Monday morning with the election commission and was informed Tuesday that the commission denied his request. The complaint was referred to the judicial board for review.

Judicial Board Chairwoman Madelon Yanta said Wednesday that

the board reviewed the complaint Monday night and "reached a unanimous decision that it didn't have any substance."

In the complaint, Hachtman said Sims should be disqualified because his campaign violated the election regulations on several counts.

The first part of the complaint said statements on Sims' behalf had been made on the air by disc jockeys of local radio station KORA-FM during the campaign. Hachtman cited an election regulation requiring all gifts and campaign materials used by any candidate to be assessed a market value by the election commissioners and subtracted from the candidate's campaign fund. Hachtman said he was not offered equal time on the station, so the comments

supporting Sims should have been considered advertisements and thus charged to Sims' campaign — which Hachtman said would push Sims over the \$300 campaign spending limit.

However, Yanta said the pro-Sims comments were considered public-service announcements since no evidence of a monetary transaction between Sims' campaign and the radio station existed.

Sims, who works as an announcer at KTAM, said, "As broadcasters, we are allowed to editorialize as long as we disclaim that it's not the opinion of the station or its management. That's exactly what those people were doing was editorializing their own opinions."

Hachtman also charged that Sims'

campaign signs were still standing at 8 p.m. on April 11, almost 48 hours after the runoff election polls closed.

"This was well past the deadline set by the election commission," the complaint said.

Thus, Hachtman said, Sims should have been charged a \$15 fine. And since the \$5 filing fee candidates pay is subtracted from their campaigns, Hachtman said the fine also should have been deducted from Sims' campaign.

Yanta said even if Sims had been fined, it would not have affected his expenditures.

"A penalty fee is not something you budget for," Yanta said. "(But)

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Sims sworn in as head of SG

By Frank Smith
Staff Writer

Mike Sims was sworn in Wednesday night as 1986-87 Texas A&M student body president.

Judicial Board Chairwoman Madelon Yanta administered the oath to Sims before members of the newly-elected Student Senate.

Student Government officials are required to take the oath as a result of a constitutional amendment, which was given final approval in the April 2 student elections.

Yanta also swore in Douglas Baird as chairman of the external affairs committee; Jose Castro, chairman of student services; Jerry Dingmore, chairman of academic affairs; and Spence McClung, chairman of finance.

In addition, the 48 senators present were sworn in together.

Sims extended a welcome to the senators, telling them that through the senate they have the opportunity to excel and learn, but he charged them to always remember the senate's primary goal of serving other students.